



(U) 'World of 2020' Report Hot Off the Press

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Will the U.S. go into hibernation? Will trans-national corporations rule the roost? (U)

(U) The report *"Tackling Tomorrow Today: Alternative Futures and Convergent Technologies of 2020"* has just been published. It is the outcome of an Agency-wide outreach to help NSA and the National Intelligence Council in its "2020 project" to identify importance influences, particularly in the area of technology, that will shape our world between now and 2020 and impact on national security. It was produced by the SIGINT National Intelligence Officer (SINIO) Council in partnership with the SID Planning, Programming, and Performance Office (S01X) and Toffler Associates.

(U) NSA's involvement included:

- hosting a Technology 2020 conference with technology leaders from around the nation;
- identifying key drivers;
- developing 4 alternative scenarios;
- holding numerous outreach sessions and interviews to engage NSA analysts, linguists, technologists, and managers;
- sponsoring a 2020-related essay contest with the International Affairs Institute;
- and maintaining an interactive web-site.

(U) With the underlying goal of providing information to identify signposts and minimize surprise, *Tackling Tomorrow Today* identifies:

Three Drivers:

- Focus: individuals, groups, and nations could be highly cohesive and pay single-minded attention to a threat or be disjointed with conflicting ambitions and low cohesiveness
- Tech-Comm-Plexity: technology and communications could accelerate and interact creating new opportunities or could stall and society would live on old ideas
- Distribution of power, knowledge, and money (PKM): PKM could be concentrated among elites or could be broadly distributed

Four Alternative Scenarios:

World	Drivers	Character	Significant Differences
Trans-National Corporate Cowboys	Focus is High Tech-Comm-Plexity is Strong PKM Distribution is Little	Corporate interests take a free hand in shaping the international environment.	Corporations dominate business and politics. Corporations lead "for-profit" technology revolution.
	Focus is High Tech-Comm-	Self-preservation dominates;	Major powers are protectionist and

Don't Tread on Us	Plexity is Weak PKM Distribution is Little	nations crack down on terrorism after devastating attacks.	isolationist. Anti-terrorist crackdown tramples individual rights (sparking counter-revolutions).
Techno Libertarians	Focus is Low Tech-Comm- Plexity is Strong PKM Distribution is Much	Exponential growth in communications and IT gives rise to a new era of connected individualism.	Explosive growth in technology. Individuals and virtual teams lead economic boom.
U.S. Hibernation	Focus is Low Tech-Comm- Plexity is Weak PKM Distribution is Much	U.S. steps back from global leadership role; other states gain relative strength.	U.S. pulls back from significant world leadership. Other powers rise in relative terms.

Six Technologies:

- Waiting for HAL: Artificial Intelligence
- Bugs with Byte: Biotechnology
- Invest Your 401(k): Communications
- Achilles or Achilles Heel? Information Security
- The World's Spinal Cord: Information Technology
- Your Daughter's Army: Military Technology
- Hype or Happening? Nanotechnology

Nine Convergences:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business • Education • Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intelligence • Security • Transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warfare • Omnicommunications • Nano-Bio-IT-Cognitive Science
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(U) We believe there is tangible and intangible impact from the journey that we have taken, and the trip does not end here. We welcome your thoughts and insights on the future as we incorporate what we've learned in assisting in the transformation of NSA.

(U) For more information please [access the full report](#) (or type "go NIC2020" in your web browser).

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